

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens to the money paid to the Corps for leasing land for farming?

The funds received through leasing are used to offset costs to manage the lands and pay to convert the areas to wildlife habitat. The amount of leasing decreases over time as more and more of the areas are converted. After the costs for management and development, if there are excess revenues, a portion may be sent to the county where the site lies.

How much will I be paid for my property?

The final agreement will be reached through negotiation. The Corps will present an offer to sell to the current owner(s). The offer will include the fair market value of the property, relocation benefits, allowance for harvesting crops in the field, and other considerations. The offer can be counter-offered by the owner just like any other real estate transaction.

Does a realtor have to be used?

A realtor does not have to be used. Willing sellers may hire a realtor to represent them during the transaction. However, the seller will be responsible for any realtor fees.

Agency Coordination Team

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Missouri Department of Conservation
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



US Army Corps
of Engineers



Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation



Project Newsletter



Issue 3, October 2004

— An update for stakeholders —

In This Issue

- **Columbia Bottom Mitigation Site**
- **Site Development underway at Kansas Bend**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**

Contacts for the Missouri River Mitigation Project

Missouri and Kansas

Kelly Ryan, P.E.
Project Manager

816.983.3324



kelly.ryan@usace.army.mil

Iowa and Nebraska

Micheal Barnes
Project Manager

402.221.4605



micheal.j.barnes@usace.army.mil

To obtain the most current information regarding this project, please visit the project website on the internet at
www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/mitigation

Site Development Underway at Kansas Bend

A construction contract was awarded February 2004 to re-open two side channels at the Kansas Bend mitigation site. The site is located 3 miles east of Peru in Nemaha County, Nebraska at Missouri River miles 547 to 544 on the right descending bank.

The construction effort includes excavation of the side channels with only a 10-foot bottom width. Through adaptive management and the natural forces of the river, the side channels are expected to erode and expand over time to a full 200-foot design width. The upper channel at this site will be 7,200 feet long while the lower channel will be similar, but only 5,580 feet long. The spoils from the excavations will be planted with native trees and grasses.

Construction is scheduled to take place through Spring 2005. After the construction is completed, the Corps will manage the side channels to assure they fully develop while the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission will assume operation and management of the lands at the mitigation site and will be opening the area up to the public.



River chute under construction

Columbia Bottom Mitigation Site

The Corps of Engineers (COE) has teamed with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to develop wetlands and other habitats at the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. The area contains 4,318 acres of land at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.

The Columbia Bottom Conservation Area was purchased by MDC in 1997. Its' location at the confluence of two of America's largest rivers provides tremendous opportunities for migratory birds. There are over 6 miles of river frontage, 800 acres of forested wetlands, and a 110 acre wooded island with a fully developed side channel.

The remaining land at the mitigation site, approx. 3,300 acres, has been cultivated for many years. Currently, the COE and MDC are working to restore wetlands, native grasses, and bottomland hardwood forest habitats to the area. Due to the size of the site, the mitigation will occur in several phases.

Phase I has been completed. Phase I consisted of moving an existing agricultural levee 800 feet landward from the Mississippi River bank. This levee 'setback' was done so that additional land on the riverside of the levee would be inundated during high water periods. The floodwater will now flow out onto the floodplain creating excellent feeding and spawning areas for native fish.



Visit the Mitigation Project on the internet at www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/mitigation

Phase II of the mitigation is currently under construction. Phase II includes development of approx. 800 acres of wetlands scattered throughout the site. The work includes construction of 15 low dikes to hold back water, and a river pump station and water delivery system to keep the wetlands filled during the migratory seasons.

All of this is just 3 miles from downtown St. Louis, so the area should provide many recreational opportunities for a great number of folks in Missouri.

Columbia Bottom information and maps:
www.conservation.state.mo.us/areas/stlouis/



Timbered wetlands, river chute, and island at the Columbia Bottom mitigation site.

Construction of the water delivery system and river pump is scheduled to last until Fall 2005. Meanwhile, the conversion of croplands to native grasses and trees, Phase III, is underway. Phase III will take several years to complete while the native plantings grow and fully mature.

Upon completion of construction, MDC will assume operation and management of the constructed features. The area will be available to the public for a variety of outdoor activities including bike riding, bird watching, hiking, and hunting when in season. MDC recently opened a new visitor center with displays relating to floodplain environments. There is a new boat ramp and overlook of the confluence. Additionally, MDC also plans to complete an auto tour route of the area.



Visit the Mitigation Project on the internet at www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/mitigation